

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

I N T H E D R A W I N G S

Applicant's representative respectfully traverses the requirement to label FIG. 1 as prior art. Despite the assertion by the Examiner, no admission has been made regarding FIG. 1 as prior art and the requirement should be withdrawn. Background material may be presented to aid in the understanding of the claimed invention and not necessarily be an art reference. After the Examiner withdraws the rejection over the background section (e.g., FIG. 1), Applicant's representative will label the drawings "conventional".

C L A I M O B J E C T I O N S

The objection to the claims has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn. These amendments have been previously presented, but not entered. Applicant's representative requests that these amendments are entered in order to reduce the issues on appeal. There does not appear to be any reason why the amendments should not be entered.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 15-18 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the background section of the present application is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The background section discloses a conventional communication protocol. The background section discloses two electrical communications channels. "One of the communication channels 14 or 16 contains information about a first local event detected. The other one of the communication channels 14 or 16 contains information about a last local event detected." (See page 2, lines 6-9 of the specification).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention discloses an apparatus comprising one or more stations each configured to (i) receive local events from a local input and (ii) present broadcast information over a shared communication channel. The stations are each configured to broadcast timing information comprising (a) a first synchronous local event and (b) a last synchronous local event. The stations share the broadcast information with each of the other stations over the shared communication channel. Claims 12 and 13 have similar limitations. The background section does not disclose or suggest a communication protocol device configured to broadcast the first and last event over a shared communications channel, as presently claimed.

In particular, the background section is concerned with a protocol device for the broadcast of event information over two electrical communications channels. The first channel (either 14 or 16) of the background section only communicates information about the first local event. The second channel (the other of either 14 or 16) of the background section only communicates information about the second local event. Neither the channel 14 or the channel 16 communicates both a first local event and a last local event, as presently claimed. The Office Action correctly cites the distinction between the first channel 14 and the second channel 16 in the background section at the top of page 4. However, the conclusion that either the channel 14 or the channel 16 is the claimed shared communication channel cannot be correct, since the claimed shared communication channel carries timing information comprising a first synchronous local event and a last synchronous local event. Neither the channel 14 or the channel 16 can provide information on both the first synchronous local event and the last synchronous local event, as presently claimed. Therefore, the background section does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be allowable.

Furthermore, Claim 6 is independently patentable over the background. Claim 6 comprises of a receive module that is used to

receive the event detection information from the station, and a transmit module that is used to transmit the event detection information from the station through the communication channel. Despite the broad conclusion presented in the Office Action, the background section does not disclose such transmit or receive modules. Despite repeating the citation, the citation provided (i.e., page 1, lines 16-18) does not mention such modules. As such, claim 6 is independently patentable over the background section.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

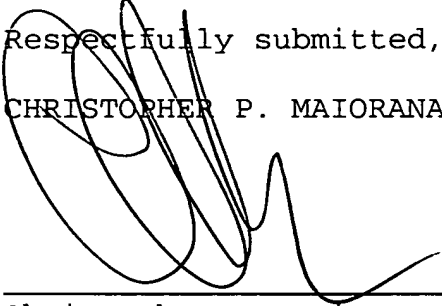
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office
Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 20, 2006

Docket No.: 0325.00363